

## Pen Pal

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500 children, teachers and staff members standing outside the school with banners, signs and flags to welcome home a person the students say is their "adopted aunt."

"We really wanted this to be a nice homecoming for Tina," said Cathy Tasco, a fifth grade teacher who was one of the organizers of the day. "Many of the classes at the school became pen-pals with Tina when she was overseas and when they found out she was coming to visit us the kids all wanted to make a special impression with her."

Their efforts paid off as Kravits shed tears of joy when she was greeted by the banners and cheers from the students. When she first approached the school Tina could only utter a small, "Wow!"

Later in the day, though, she found the words to describe the homecoming. "It was awesome," she said. "It's something I'll remember for a long time."

Kravits spent all day Monday at the school talking to the

students about her role in the Persian Gulf. Although, much of her activity is still classified, she told the students as much as she could and patiently answered the very many questions the students asked.

During the day, she got to meet many of the children, who before this she had only known from letters. During her seven month stay in the Persian Gulf, Tina received a number of letters from students. She also found time to write back to the classes and tell them what it was like overseas.

Receiving the letters from the students helped her while serving in the Air Force, Kravits said. "It was amazing," she said. "It really made a difference. Sometimes we would wait in line for 45 minutes to see what mail we received."

She added that she was thrilled to receive all the mail she did. "If you would walk away with no mail it was a real let down," she said. "We called it the 'walk of shame' but fortunately I didn't have to make that

walk."

After returning to this area March 10, Kravits contacted the school and said she wanted to spend time with the students who wrote to her.

Tasco said that this idea was met with a lot of enthusiasm from school officials and students alike. "Everyone was all keyed up," she said. "We wanted to make her homecoming one that she would always remember."

Tasco also said that it was very easy to get the students involved in the program. "When they heard she was coming they all wanted to do something," she said.

Classes began preparing signs and banners to greet their pen pal with. The art teacher also helped the students prepare a large banner and then every student signed it before presenting it to Kravits.

Tasco said that PTO members also helped with the program. "We got a lot of help from the mothers," she said. "Everyone was just great in helping us give Tina a great welcome back."

The homecoming for Capt. Kravits wasn't limited to the entrance to the school. She also was met with cheers and presents on her entrance to each classroom.

In one first grade class, the students sang "My Country Tis of Thee" to her and gave her a coffee mug that said "You are special."

All this affection made a big impact on the officer. "I have had many homecomings but none as special as today," she told one class.

She said later that the students' knowledge of the war surprised her. "They have been tremendous. I didn't know we had the support at home that we did but they have really shown me a lot."

As much as it was overwhelming for Kravits, the children also were excited. Her nephew Tim Kravits said that he was proud of his aunt and glad to have her home. He may have spoken for the whole school when he announced proudly that, "She's great."



**FAMILY MEMBERS** - Captain Tina Charney Kravits stands with her niece and nephew during a visit to the Westmoreland Elementary School. Captain Kravits spoke to students about her role in the Persian Gulf War. Shown from left, are Tim Kravits, who is in the first grade at the school; Captain Kravits; and Lindsay Kravits, who is in the fifth grade at Westmoreland. (Post Photo/Rich Johnson)

## Playground

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will be done until Mr. Brown comes back and he has talked with your committee."

Mrs. Eyet asked Lutsey if he had made plans for the playground. Lutsey said he had drawn a number of plans for presentation to Brown but also said these were dependent on Brown's decision after he had talked with the committee and presented his ideas or recommendations to the council at the April meeting. He also said that Wolensky was sent a letter the week of the council meeting telling him he was welcome to apply for the chief of staff position or whatever title might be given the person in charge of the park.

Council member Jerry Machell was reassuring, "Marie, we will make no decisions until April when Bob Brown has returned and when Council meets," Machell said.

"Milt Lutsey said in order to save money he is making all positions minimum wage," Mrs. Eyet said. "Why? Our playground program is the best program in the Back Mountain." Again, president Tim Carroll said no decisions would be made until Brown met with Eyet's committee and made his proposal to council.

Barry Brutko, a counselor at the playground for two years, asked, "Is \$2,000 too much to keep your children safe and happy? Why get rid of such a fine man who has done so much for the children? He used his own car many times to take the children on trips, he saved the borough money by getting a bus the borough didn't have to pay for. He came back and spent hours at night for special programs. Roads, Christmas decorations and that stuff can wait. Children are the borough's future, they should have priority."

"What do I say to these children when they ask me 'Why did they take Jack away?' What do I say to them?" Brutko asked.

"As far as I know only two are coming back this year. We need some of the veterans. I wasn't coming back this year but if Jack doesn't come back I might. Those children need someone with experience there. I'm old enough. I'm a registered voter and voted in November. Why couldn't things go as they were? I received a letter that I was hired but never one that I was terminated," said Brutko.

Elaine Flynn said her son went to the playground every year from the age of six to 15 years. "It was a wonderful opportunity for him. I feel a professional person is needed to direct the program. Jay Pope and Jack Wolensky were professionals. They know how to talk and how to listen to the children."

"Wolensky is a guidance counselor and he knows how to deal with them. It would be unfortunate to lose a man like that," Flynn said.

The parents seemed willing to help pick up some of the cost to maintain the summer program as it had been in the past.

"Why can't money be given to Jack for a gratuity, or be given to sponsor special trips?" asked Mrs. Eyet. "Clubs could be contacted and give money for equipment. I know of some who would be willing. If money is contributed for trips or equipment, money in those accounts could be transferred to the salary account," Eyet stated.

"Your group has a lot of good ideas," said borough solicitor Fine. "Get together with Bob Brown and discuss your ideas. The council can't undermine his position," said Fine.

In other business, the borough solicitor reported that the former Hearthstone Pub will be up for Sheriff Sale April 19 as the result of a suit by K.R.W. Investment Corporation against T.L.C. Enterprises, the owner as listed in county records. Following the sale, owner



**PROTEST LEADER** - Marie Eyet led a group of parents who petitioned the Dallas Borough Council to rehire Jack Wolensky as director of the summer recreation program. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

Ron Post will execute an agreement with R.N. Fitch & Sons to raze the building, Fine said.

Council approved the bid of \$2,350 a the flashing light for Route 309 from Star Signal Inc. The price includes the light and all labor and materials as a completed working warning signal after which it will be up to PennDOT to take care of rumble strips on the roadway.

The solicitor will research the borough's agreement with Telemedia Company and the council will protest the company adding the borough's franchise fee to the customers bills.

## Trout

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that it was only because of budget cuts that this decision was made," said Sgarlat.

The councilman added that he understood that only residents of Harveys Lake were really concerned about the situation.

"I heard on a radio talk show that people in Wilkes-Barre and other areas didn't care about the decision because they felt they couldn't fish at the lake unless they had a boat," said Sgarlat.

Councilman Richard Boice disagreed with that thought. "Do you suppose those people are blind?" asked Boice. "I have never seen such a pack of congregated people as I've seen out around the lake on the first day."

Sgarlat suggested that property owners who enjoy fishing may want to allow others who do not have access to the lake on their property to do some fishing.

Also at the meeting, Councilman David Abod said that the borough's Environmental Advisory Council (EVAC) would be helping residents who own property near wetlands to avoid trouble with the federal government by building on the wetlands.

"We have some residents who are subdividing and building near the wetlands and we don't want them to inadvertently harm the wetlands," he said.

Abod added that EVAC has worked with area wetlands specialists to map out the wetlands in the borough and will be contacting those residents who are located near those areas.

"The government takes the wetlands very seriously, and they should," said Abod. "We want to make sure that these lands are not destroyed and that our residents stay within the laws."

On another issue, Abod an-

nounced that the state has granted EVAC \$70,000 for a study of the lake. He said that the money will be used for a one year study of the water.

In other business, councilman Sgarlat announced that safety lights will be installed near the Lake-Noxen Elementary School in May. He added that the cost for the lights will be reduced as the Lake-Lehman School District has agreed to pay for maintenance of them.

"We were pleased to hear that," said Sgarlat. "We didn't think they were going to pay for any of it but they have said they'll pick up the maintenance for the light."

## John Mitchell is due home this week

PFC John Mitchell of Kunkle, was scheduled to arrive home from Saudi Arabia, March 26, flying in to Avoca late Tuesday evening.

John, 21, has a twin brother Jeff, at home and is the son of Robert and Dorothy Mitchell of Kunkle.

He left for Saudi Arabia the middle of September.

John has been in the Army about 2 1/2 years, spending 18 months in Germany and the past six months in the Gulf War.

"I'm excited, I didn't sleep too well last night," his mother Dorothy Mitchell, said Tuesday morning as she anxiously waited for this day to end and to see her son.

## Children's Theater Fest needs volunteers

The 1991 International Children's Theater Festival will once again be held in Wilkes-Barre, on May 15, 16, 17 and 18. This year's Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Gower, is in need of several hundred volunteers to fill a variety of vital positions during the Festival programming. Volunteers can be any responsible high school or college student, Senior Citizens, Homemakers, etc. who have a few hours to donate towards helping the 20,000 plus children expected to attend this year's Festival. If you'd like more information, or to become a Children's

Festival Volunteer, please call Kathy Gower at 829-5437 or 696-3150.

Volunteers are needed to usher at six different theater sites, to serve as crossing guards, to help children with arts and crafts at Playworks, to supervise lunch sites, lost and found, information

booths and so on. In past years, various Senior Citizens groups have played a key role in volunteering time—a fact that easily made past Festivals run so smoothly. This year volunteers are critically needed for the late afternoon/early evening and Saturday time periods.

## Kingston Twp. offices closed Good Friday

The Kingston Township Municipal Office will be closed on Good Friday, March 29, and Easter Monday, April 1.

Please note: The Tax Collectors Office will also be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

## TAX NOTICE

LOCAL EMPLOYERS AND SELF EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

EFFECTIVE WITH THE FILING OF THE 1ST QUARTER 1991 EARNED INCOME TAX REPORTS, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE MUST BE USED:

Dallas Township Residents and Employers must send 1/2 of the 1% Earned Income Tax Withheld to DON WILKINSON AGENCY, INC., and 1/2 of the 1% to the School District Collector for School District RESIDENTS ONLY. For any employees who reside OUTSIDE of the School District the full 1% must be sent only to DON WILKINSON AGENCY, INC.

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